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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

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November 08, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Murray, and Vice Chair Collins:

I write today to urge you to include President Biden's request for a 27% increase in funding for the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. Given the horrific war taking place in the Middle East, we are seeing a significant increase in bigotry and hate crimes occurring in classrooms and on college campuses across the country.

Now more than ever, OCR needs additional resources to adequately address the substantial wave of incoming complaints they are receiving throughout the country.

Since October 7<sup>th</sup>, we have seen an increasing number of news stories and reports detailing horrific incidents of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and racism occurring on college campuses and in schools in the United States. These acts of hatred are unacceptable and have no place in this country. We must utilize every tool at our disposal to respond to these incidents and keep our students safe. One of the most important tools we have to protect student's basic civil rights is the ongoing work of OCR. To be responsive to this moment, OCR needs additional funding to acquire the staff and resources needed to quickly address the growing number of incoming complaints.

This is a crisis that demands an emergency response. Sufficient funding to protect the safety and wellbeing of our students, teachers, faculty, and staff must be included in the next supplemental appropriations bill.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator  
Chairman, Committee on  
Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions